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RETURN TO CIA

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [redacted]

FID 648

TOPIC Military Information from the Gerstungen Border Area

25X1

EVALUATION [redacted] 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 11 November to 2 December 1950

DATE OBTAINED [redacted] DATE PREPARED 16 January 1951

REFERENCES [redacted]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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1. Between 11 and 30 November, it was observed that a guard was on continual watch on a wooden observation platform on the roof of the Soviet komendatura building, the former Villa Kleinsorge, on Wilhelmstrasse, Gerstungen. The guard, in contact with the komendatura by telephone, scanned the border area from the Autobahn north of Gerstungen as far as Berka with his field glasses. It was repeatedly observed that the guard took up the telephone receiver as soon as the US airplane which patrols the zonal border at irregular intervals appeared and held the receiver in his hand as long as the plane was visible.

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2. During the night of 17 November, about 50 soldiers left Gerstungen on three trucks, having bedsteads and other furniture with them. The trucks returned empty on 18 November. [redacted] the troops had allegedly gone to Erfurt. After their departure, the unit which was stationed in Gerstungen numbered about 20 officers and 120 EM. The officers included the commanding officer, an adjutant, a medical officer, an administrative officer, two athletic officers, two political officers, and two MVD officers. Some of them wore artillery and some tank insignia. *

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3. A detail of one sergeant and four EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets has been on continual watch on top of the former AA tower at triangulation point No 332 since 30 November. The tower was located about 1,200 meters northwest of Untersuhl (L 51/H 66). It was a concrete structure, about 10 meters high, which was built during the war and has not been used since the end of the war. No telephone or radio equipment was observed with the Soviet detail, **

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4. On 1 December, it was observed that the former AA tower at triangulation point No 332 was occupied by a Soviet sergeant and four EM, who wore red-bordered black epaulets. **

5. [redacted]

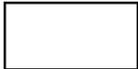
6. A Soviet detachment of one officer and 10 EM was stationed in Heiligenroda. When the detachment was relieved, the officer in charge together with the relieved officer checked the border sector assigned to the unit.

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7. A group of one Soviet major, one captain, two senior lieutenants, one lieutenant, one junior lieutenant, and 10 EM wearing red-bordered black epaulets was seen walking along the zonal border between Untersuhl and Berka (L 51/H 56) on 2 December. **

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* Comment. An observation platform was previously reported to be mounted on the roof of the ~~Kommandatura~~ building in Gerstungen. The troops stationed there probably belonged to a component of the 57th Gds Mts Rifle Div. Compare with previous information by the on military personnel in Gerstungen and on the construction of foxholes along the zonal border.

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** Comment. A Soviet detail on an AA tower northwest of Untersuhl and a border guard detachment in Heiligenroia are reported for the first time.

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